



From:  Sergey Vernyuk <SV@etblaw.com>
To:  Information Collection
Cc:
Subject: 0651-0027 comment

Sent: Thu 12/4/2014 8:50 AM

Dear Sir or Madam,

The above-captioned Comment Request for the Proposed Collection regarding Recording Assignments requests comments about ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected (among other topics).

One way that the utility and clarity of recorded patent assignments can be enhanced is by allowing free, public access to scans/copies of the actual assignments online. Currently, copies of recorded trademark assignments are available on the USPTO's online portal in PDF form. However, copies of recorded patent assignments are not available for free on the USPTO's website; instead, a person must order a copy from the USPTO for a fee and wait for the USPTO to process the order.

The utility of the recorded patent assignments will be enhanced if the actual assignments are available. Sometimes there are discrepancies between the actual assignment and the cover sheet. In some instances, the terms or conditions of the assignment are important. In any case, the actual assignment, and not its cover sheet, controls. Therefore, the utility and clarity of the recorded patent assignment will be enhanced by providing free, quick access to the actual assignment, instead of just to its cover sheet.

I understand that recorded patent application assignments are not available if the patent application has not been published yet. I also understand that sometimes, one assignment is used to transfer multiple patents or applications; therefore, it is possible for one recorded assignment document to cover 1) a patent, 2) a published application, and 3) an unpublished application. However, not providing *any* recorded assignments is greatly over-inclusive to protect unpublished applications. For example:

- if a recorded assignment covers only one or more issued patents, such an assignment should be available;
- if a recorded assignment covers only one patent application, then such an assignment should be made available (along with the cover sheet for that assignment) as soon as the application becomes published;
- if a recorded assignment covers an unpublished application in addition to either a patent or a published application, then the assignment should be made available when all of the applications become published or patented.

Programming to configure the above rules does not seem very difficult, especially because similar rules seem to already be in place for the cover sheets.

In conclusion, making the actual recorded assignments freely available online would enhance the clarity and utility of the recorded assignments and should not be very difficult to implement.

Thank you for your consideration,



Sergey Vernyuk

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